

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling light beams emitted by a lighting apparatus of a vehicle travelling on a road, as a function of the geometry of the said road, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 5 - sensing, by means of at least one sensor on the vehicle, at least one item of information relating to the dynamic behaviour of the vehicle,
 - obtaining a set of navigation data, in particular comprising the form of the road and a reliability rate,
 - comparing the reliability rate with a predetermined reliability threshold value;
 - 10 - if the reliability rate is higher than the reliability threshold value, determining a command to be applied to the lighting apparatus taking into account at least part of the set of navigation data, then making a comparison with a command which has regard only to the item or items of information relating to the dynamic behaviour of the vehicle, whereby to determine the effective command to be applied,
 - 15 - if the reliability rate is lower than the reliability threshold value, the lighting command to be applied is based only on at least one item of data relating to the dynamic behaviour of the vehicle.
- 20 2. A method of control according to Claim 1, wherein it includes a step of sensing a plurality of items of information relating to the behaviour of the vehicle.
3. A method of control according to Claim 1, wherein it includes a smoothing operation for the control data.

4. A method of control according to Claim 1, wherein the control of the lighting apparatus is for orientation of the light beams.
5. A method of control according to Claim 1, wherein the control of the lighting apparatus is for selection of the size and/or form of the light beams.
6. A method of control according to Claim 1, wherein the control of the lighting apparatus consists in switching on or switching off the light beams.
7. A control system for controlling light beams emitted by a lighting apparatus of a vehicle travelling on a road as a function of the geometry of the said road, comprising at least one sensor connected to the vehicle and giving information relating to the behaviour of the vehicle, wherein it comprises:
 - an on-board navigation system,
 - an apparatus for processing information supplied by the sensor and by the navigation system, and
 - command means for the lighting.
8. A control system according to Claim 7, wherein the navigation system includes at least one mapping system and a GPS.
9. A control system according to Claim 7, wherein the sensor is a sensor of the vehicle itself.
- 20 10. A control system according to Claim 7, wherein the sensor is a peripheral sensor.
11. A control system according to Claim 7, wherein it includes a plurality of sensors of the vehicle itself and/or peripheral sensors.

12. A control system according to Claim 9, wherein the vehicle sensor is a steering wheel angle sensor, or a sensor for the speed of the vehicle, or a road bend sensor, or a radial force sensor.
13. A control system according to Claim 10, wherein the peripheral sensor
5 is a camera or a white-line detector or a fog detector.
14. An automotive lighting apparatus using the control system claimed in
Claim 7.
15. A motor vehicle equipped with at least one lighting system according
to Claim 14.